

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

SS-15 /035 W

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P R 271947Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5383

INFO USIA WASHDC

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FOR: USIA FOR ILA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS VE

SUBJECT: PRESS QUERIES RE GOV EXPULSION 3 U.S. BASED
JOURNALISTS

1. WASHINGTON POST'S OMANG QUERIED EMBASSY TUESDAY AS TO WHETHER EMBASSY HAD SOUGHT CLARIFICATION ABOUT WHY THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT'S TREATMENT OF THE THREE U.S. REPORTERS WHO LEFT VENEZUELA SUDDENLY OCTOBER 22.

2. WE TOLD OMANG THAT WHEN WE FOUND OUT ABOUT THE INCIDENT THE REPORTERS HAD ALREADY DEPARTED. AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THE EMBASSY CONTACTED THE FOREIGN OFFICE FOR AN EXPLANATION, WE SAID THE EMBASSY WAS INFORMED BY THE FOREIGN OFFICE THAT THE WOMAN (HILDA INCLAN OF THE MIAMI NEWS) HAD SOME IRREGULARITIES IN HER PAPERS AND WAS ASKED TO CONTACT DISIP THE FOLLOWING MORNING. WHEN SHE REFUSED TO DO THIS SHE WAS ASKED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY. THE OTHER TWO REPORTERS SUPPORTED MS. INCLAN AND ALSO LEFT THE COUNTRY.

3. WE TOLD HER THAT THE AMBASSADOR AND THE DCM HAD SUBSEQUENTLY EXPRESSED TO APPROPRIATE GOV AUTHORITIES THE EMBASSY'S DISMAY AND CONCERN ABOUT THE INCIDENT.

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4. MEANWHILE, CITY EDITOR THOMAS KNOWLAND CALLED THE PAO TO

ASK WHETHER THE MIAMI NEWS COULD SEND ANOTHER REPORTER TO CARACAS. THE PAO SAID THERE WAS NO REASON THAT HE WAS AWARE OF WHY THEY COULD NOT AND ADDED THAT OFICINA CENTRAL DE INFORMACION'S DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN PRESS AFFAIRS CLEMENTE COHEN HAD TOLD THE 10 SUNDAY EVENING THAT IF HE WERE THE EDITOR OF THE MIAMI NEWS HE (COHEN) WOULD HAVE A REPORTER ON THE NEXT PLANE.

VAKY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPULSION, JOURNALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CARACA12705
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760401-0524
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761015/aaaaamhs.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <03 NOV 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS QUERIES RE GOV EXPULSION 3 U.S. BASED JOURNALISTS
TAGS: PINS, VE, US, WASHINGTON POST
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006